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25-Mile Zone to Be Claimed

Nicaragua to Extend Coastal Limit

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MANAGUA, Nicaragua, Oct. 23—Nicaragua plans to declare a 25-mile security zone off both its coasts and move thousands of people away from vulnerable fuel storage tanks in the nation's largest port in response to recent attacks by anti-Sandinista counter-revolutionary guerrillas, government officials said today.

The steps reflect concern over the U.S.-backed rebels' success at staging raids on coastal facilities from the sea. The security zone could lead to tensions between Nicaragua and the United States, which reportedly still has warships in waters off the Honduran coast, north of Nicaragua.

Under the naval and air security zone proposed by the junta, foreign warplanes or warships would have to ask permission 15 days in advance before coming within 25 miles of Nicaragua's coastline. Civilian craft

would have to seek permission a week in advance.

While the United States technically only respects a three-mile coastal limit, it has in practice kept ships more than 12 miles from Nicaragua's coasts, a U.S. Embassy spokesman said.

The United States or other countries with ships in the area might object to the 25-mile zone. A flotilla of U.S. warships was dispatched to waters near Nicaragua's Caribbean and Pacific coasts last summer in a show of force coinciding with U.S. military maneuvers in neighboring Honduras.

The Nicaraguan plan, outlined in the pro-government newspaper *Nuevo Diario*, does not explicitly threaten to attack ships or warplanes that infringe upon the 25-mile limit. Instead, it provides for fines of up to \$75,000 if the vessel or plane resists authorities seeking to expel it.

To enforce the zone, Nicaragua would have to rely on its small Navy, made up mostly of small patrol boats.

The Council of State, or national legislature, is scheduled to begin considering the plan Wednesday. It is dominated by the Sandinistas and approval is considered routine.

The Sandinista government also began this weekend to promote a peace proposal it had presented in Washington Thursday aimed at negotiating a halt in guerrilla attacks. Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the ruling revolutionary junta, sounded conciliatory when asked to comment on a U.S. statement calling the Nicaraguan proposals "deficient."

"We hope that they really will study them and plan political solutions," Ortega said yesterday.

The progovernment media had given relatively little attention to the peace proposals Thursday and Friday, but the official newspaper of the ruling Sandinista front today ran a long editorial stressing Nicaragua's willingness to negotiate.

In another development, Ortega announced that repairs were almost complete on an underwater pipeline that was sabotaged Oct. 14 at a key oil-receiving terminal. He said that negotiations are underway to rent a tanker to deliver oil after Exxon Corp. 10 days ago stopped providing tankers to carry oil to Nicaragua because of safety considerations.

One diplomatic source said a tanker has already been leased and is expected to arrive in early November. Tankers docking at the port of Puerto Sandino provide more than three-quarters of the nation's petroleum needs, and the government called on citizens to expect tighter fuel rations after Exxon canceled its shipments. The U.S. corporation acted after guerrillas of the CIA-funded Nicaraguan Democratic Force threatened to attack any tankers supplying Nicaragua.

The government also is planning to evacuate about 3,000 people from their homes around fuel tanks in the Pacific port of Corinto before Nov. 10, officials said. They would live in new homes being constructed less than 10 miles away in the town of El Realejo.

The entire city of Corinto, with a population of close to 25,000, was evacuated Oct. 10 when guerrillas in a motor boat fired on the fuel tanks and started a huge fire that took a day and a half to

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